deposits of the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is empowered under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to regulate functioning of all the banks in India, including foreign banks. All guidelines issued by RBI for regulating the functioning of banks in India are equally applicable to foreign banks. RBI's control over the foreign banks is the same as over domestic banks.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The foreign banks are required to give prior notice, to RBI, of their intention to close down their operations in India. The bank intending to close down its operation in India is required to discharge all its liabilities, realise assets and clear all obligations under contingent liabilities, before it is permitted by RBI to close operations in India. RBI ensures that foreign bank closes its operation in India only after meeting all liabilities in India including liabilities to depositors and investors.

"Opening of Kisan Vikas Patras to cooperative societies"

1422. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the important postal saving schemes like the Kisan Vikas Patras and National Saving Certificates are not sold to institutions and organisations like cooperative societies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would like to review the existing practice and throw open these schemes to organisations and institutions and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The small savings schemes of the Central Government including Kisan Vikas Patra and National Savings Certificate (VIII-Issue) are designed to provide avenues of savings to small investors in rural and urban areas and to inculcate the habit of thrift amongst the masses. These schemes are not intended for investment of surplus funds by institutions and organisations.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.